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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 10 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 1 and 7 December 1999 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek lawful compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 1-7 December 1999

1. In the northern region 58 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1048 hours on 2 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Amadiyah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1150 hours on 3 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Amadiyah, Aqrah and Baibo areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1250 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1100 hours on 4 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1435 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1130 hours on 7 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah, Baibo, Amadiyah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1255 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 272 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1040 hours on 2 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 missions, 8 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Qal'at Salih, Salman,

Basrah, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Ushbayjah and Qal'at Sukkar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1745 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1200 hours on 4 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 60 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 42 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Ushbayjah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Shatrah, Salman, Amarah, Taqtaqanah South, Najaf South, Qal'at Sukkar, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Lasaf, Diwaniyah and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1505 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0930 hours on 5 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 42 missions, 20 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 22 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Basrah, Diwaniyah, Jalibah, Artawi, Lasaf, Qurnah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1135 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1040 hours on 6 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 60 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 38 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Salman, Lasaf, Ukhaydir, Taqtaqanah, Ali al-Gharbi, Najaf, Qal'at Salih and Diwaniyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1420 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0925 hours on 7 December 1999 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 92 missions, 32 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 60 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Nasiriyah, Salman, Samawah, Rumaythah, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Hayy, Nu'maniyah, Basrah, Qal'at Salih, Amarah, Najaf, Taqtaqanah, Qurnah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1655 hours, drove them off.